

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 31, 2003, Paper No. 7, has been received and reviewed. By the present Response and Amendment, Claim 8 is cancelled, Claims 15-19 are withdrawn as non-elected, and Claims 9 and 20 are amended. No new matter is introduced.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; the Examiner having correctly noted that the claim fails to further limit the invention described in Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 8 has been cancelled.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 13, 14 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by WO 94/18908 to Brady et al. Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration. Claim 1 recites:

... whereby said lens body has a central thickness and an edge thickness, the central thickness being greater than the edge thickness; said lens body further comprising at least one flared portion along said peripheral edge, said flared portion having a thickness greater than the edge thickness.

(Emphasis added). This claimed structure is further explained by way of example embodiments of the invention at page 3, lines 9-20; page 7, line 20; and Figs. 3 and 4. As claimed, the edge of the lens has a relatively small "edge thickness", and there are one or more "flared portions" along the edge with a thickness greater than the edge thickness. The present amendments to Claims 9 and 20 similarly clarify that the claimed lens has "flared portions" that are thicker than the remainder of the lens' peripheral edge.

Between the thicker "flared portions" of the lens of the present invention, the peripheral edge of the lens is relatively thin. See Page 3, lines 11-12. This increases flexibility and reduces the insertion profile (the minimum opening size required for implantation of the lens) of the lens; and allows a desired optical characteristic to be

achieved in a thinner, lighter and more flexible lens than would otherwise be possible. See Page 3, lines 12-20.

By contrast, the lens of the WO 94/18908 reference by Brady et al has a uniform edge thickness all the way around the lens' periphery. Brady et al discusses this uniform edge thickness at page 9, lines 18-31, and at page 12, lines 28-33--the preferred thickness of the peripheral zone of the lens being disclosed as about .305 mm to about .381 mm. The Brady et al reference does disclose that "the thickness T2 of the peripheral zone 27 is greater than the thickness of the periphery 26 of optical zone 25" Page 13, lines 28-30; see also Fig. 3A (as compared to the prior art lens of Fig. 3B). But there is no disclosure or suggestion of any flared portions along the edge having a thickness greater than the described "thickness T2 of the peripheral zone 27," in the manner presently claimed. The uniformity of Brady et al's edge thickness is further apparent from a comparison of Figs. 2 and 3. Figure 2 shows the edge thickness T2 being uniform along the entire lens periphery. And Fig. 3 (taken at section 3 - 3 of Fig. 1) shows this same edge thickness. One of the stated functions of the peripheral zone 27 of Brady et al is "strengthening the optical zone 25 against deformation when implanted". Page 13, lines 10-12. This function likely could not be achieved (or only to a much-diminished extent) by a relatively thin peripheral zone with thicker "flared portions" spaced along the edge of the lens.

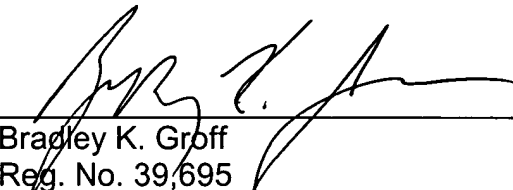
Claims 5 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 94/18908 to Brady et al in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,731,079 to Stoy. And Claims 3 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 94/18908 to Brady et al in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,725,276 to Bissonette et al. Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration. As outlined above, Brady et al does not disclose or suggest the provision of "flared portions" along the lens edge having a thickness greater than the thickness of the remainder of the lens' peripheral edge, as presently claimed. Nor do the Stoy or Bissonette references disclose or suggest this

feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the §103 grounds of rejection are believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above comments and the amendments submitted herein, it is believed that all grounds of rejection are overcome and that the application has now been placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits early and favorable action. Should there be any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney at (770) 984-2300.

Respectfully submitted,


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